



SACHI A. HAMAI  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 8, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai   
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
HILDA L. SOLIS  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

### **REPORT BACK REGARDING COLLOCATION OF COMMERCIAL CARRIERS ON LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA- RICS) INFRASTRUCTURE AT COUNTY SITES - (ITEM NO. 18, AGENDA OF MARCH 24, 2015)**

On March 24, 2015, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted an amended motion relating to the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) project that, among other things, instructed the Interim Chief Executive Officer to:

- a. Send a five-signature letter to the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce, and the County's Congressional Delegation, to request an extension of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (B-TOP) grant and/or seek potential funding alternatives to the B-TOP grant;
- b. Instruct the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to work with the Administration and schedule meetings with members of Congress to address this important issue during the Board's annual visit to Washington, D.C.;
- c. Delay approval of the Site Access Agreements with LA-RICS, with the exception of sites unopposed by residents and/or employees, until a response regarding the grant deadline is received, and halt construction at all County fire stations; and

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- d. Provide a report back to the Board in two weeks on the issue of collocation by commercial carriers and include recommendations.

This report back addresses Item (d), collocation by commercial carriers at sites where LA-RICS public safety-grade telecommunications installations ("LA-RICS installations") may be built.

### **COUNTY SITES**

As you are aware, the LA-RICS Authority is building two dedicated public safety communications systems. The first is a Long Term Evolution (LTE) system, also called Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN), to provide for the transmission of data, including photos and video. The second is a Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system for transmission of voice communications. The LTE and LMR systems, while two independent systems, collectively form the LA-RICS.

For the LTE system, prior to the Board's action on March 24, 2015 suspending construction at all County fire sites, the previous design of the LTE system contemplated 177 sites, of which 103 are County owned, County controlled, or County operated sites. Of the 103 County sites, 75 are located at County Fire stations, 20 are located at Sheriff's stations, 4 are located at existing County owned transmitter sites, and 4 are roof mounts at hospitals.

For the LMR system, 71 sites are currently contemplated in the design. Of the 71 sites, 44 are County owned, County controlled or County operated sites. Of those 44 County sites, 13 are located at County Fire stations, 2 are located at Sheriff's stations, and 29 are located at other existing transmitter sites or County owned, leased or controlled sites (which includes both State Courthouses where County has a lease). Construction has not started on the LMR project.

### **COMMERCIAL COLLOCATIONS**

Depending on what type of new installation is constructed at the County sites, commercial collocation may be possible on the LA-RICS installations. Sites that are receiving new undisguised monopoles, hose tower monopoles, and monopines, have room on the poles to allow for collocation by other carriers. (Collocating on monopalms is generally not feasible). Some of these poles have room for up to two additional carriers. Rent may be charged for allowing collocations on these poles, which averages about \$2000/month per location. If the pole is in a desirable location in Los Angeles County, rent can run upwards of \$3500/month or higher.

The site access agreements (SAAs) between the County and the LA-RICS Authority permitting access to County owned, County controlled, and County operated sites for the LA-RICS public safety grade installations, permit the County to lease or license space on the LA-RICS pole to third parties, provided the third party use does not interfere with the LA-RICS Authority's operation of the system. The SAAs also permit the County to keep the revenues generated by such third party leases or licenses, minus an administrative fee to compensate the LA-RICS Authority for any administrative review of third party designs.

### **POLICY OPTIONS**

In that the Board controls access to the County owned, County operated, or County controlled sites, it has a number of policy options concerning whether commercial collocations can occur on property under the control of the Board. As it relates to County sites where an LA-RICS public safety telecommunications installation exists, these policy options include:

1. Prohibiting collocation of carriers for commercial service at all County owned, County operated, and County controlled sites.

This would provide for a blanket prohibition of commercial collocation anywhere an LA-RICS installation has been built on property under the control of the Board. This would prohibit collocation at County fire stations and Sheriff stations, but also at sites that are existing telecommunications sites and sites located in remote, rural or commercial areas.

2. Prohibiting collocation of carriers for commercial service at all County owned, County operated, and County controlled sites, where:

- (a) County firefighters sleep and reside; or
- (b) The site is located within 250 feet from an existing residence

For all other sites, collocation of carriers for commercial service may be permitted on a case by case basis, subject to the sole discretion of the Board.

This would prohibit commercial collocation at County fire stations where County firefighters sleep and reside at the station as part of their work shift. Many of these fire stations are in residential neighborhoods. This would also prohibit commercial collocation at any sites located within 250

feet of an existing residence, including any County fire stations and Sheriff's stations. Commercial collocations could be considered at every other site, on a case by case basis.

3. Prohibit collocation of carriers for commercial service at all County owned, County operated, and County controlled sites. However, collocation of carriers for commercial service may be permitted on a case by case basis at any site, subject to the sole discretion of the Board.

This option provides for a general blanket prohibition at all sites, but acknowledges that commercial collocation may be permitted on a case by case basis, depending on whatever factors the Board considers relevant. These factors could include needs of the residents in the area, if residents are in support of the collocation, etc.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Should your Board desire to proceed with a Collocation policy at this time, the CEO recommends Option 2.

Prohibiting collocation of carriers for commercial service at all County owned, County operated, and County controlled sites, where:

- (a) County firefighters sleep and reside; or
- (b) The site is located within 250 feet from an existing residence.

For all other sites, collocation of carriers for commercial service may be permitted on a case by case basis, subject to the sole discretion of the Board.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (213) 974-1101, or your staff may contact Gerry Hertzberg at (213) 974-0931.

SAH:JJ:GH:er

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel